Ludhiana, it has been decided to set up a Science and Technology Entrepreneurs Park (STEP) there. The STEP will provide necessary facilities and assistance in technology development and transfer to the prospective entrepreneurs mostly drawn from the alumni of the college. The STEP has been registered in August, 1986 under the Societies Registration Act. The project report has been prepared by GNEC and is undr considration of all-India Financial Institutions for funding the project.

(c) The total estimated cost of the project is around Rs. 200 lakhs, and the expected sources of funding are Department of Science and Technology, Government of India; the all-India Financial Instituions (IDBI-IFCI, ICICI); the State Government etc. So far, financial assistance amounting to Rs. 2,87,750/- has been given by the Department of Science and Technology, for the purpose.

Reservation for Scheduled Caste/ Scheduled Tribes in the Supreme Court and High Court Judges cadre

1059. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to reserve seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Supreme Court and High Court Judges cadre;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI HANS RAJ BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Judges in the Supreme Court and the High Courts are appointed in terms of the provisions of Articles 124(3) and 217(2) of the Constitution which do not permit of any distinction on the basis of caste or class among persons qualified for such appointment. However, the Government have again addressed the Chief Ministers of States and Chief Justices of High Courts requesting them to locate persons from the Bar belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, etc. who are suitable for appointment to the High Courts and advising them that the volume of legal practice being not high enough should not be a material consideration acting as deterrent to the names of such persons being recommended.

1060. [*Transferred to the 9th May, 1988*]

Indo-Chinese talks on border issue

1061. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) by when the next round of talks between India and China on the border problems is scheduled to be held; and

(b) the progress so far achieved in the previous rounds of talks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) No date has as yet been fixed for the next round which will be held at a time convenient to both Governments.

(b) Both Governments have acquired a clear perception of each other's stand and have agreed that peace and tranquility should be maintained along the border.